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POLISH POLITEKRO OFFICIAL ON PROBLEMS OF CONTACT,  
 WORK WITH NONPARTY PEOPLE, PARTY RECORDS

The following information is taken from one of 28 commentaries made by dignitaries of the PZPR (United Polish Workers' Party) at the Seventh Plenum of its Central Committee, held 14 - 15 June 1952. Each of the commentaries is an amplification of President Bierut's opening speech and was presumably edited by Nowe Drogi.

In the following commentary, Wladyslaw Dworakowski, alternate member of the Politburo, deploras the bureaucratic attitude of party members in neglecting work among newly recruited industrial workers and peasants, and in failing to maintain party records.

The following organizational problems in party work need to be given serious attention:

1. Direct contact with the masses as a requisite of proper leadership of party organizations and their work through the wojewodztwo committees and powiat committees
2. Organizational work of party members with nonparty people and nonparty activity
3. Party administration.

A serious deficiency in the work of wojewodztwo and powiat committees is the inadequate study and critical evaluation of their own organizations and of the type of leadership needed in a particular area. We must combat routine and superficial supervision which overlooks specific conditions in individual powiats, towns, and even factories.

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Comrade Bierut pointed out that for the proper supervision of party organizations constant contact, as well as knowledge and understanding of their problems and of the feelings and anxieties which motivate the masses, is necessary. Opposition in this matter has become evident not only in powiat committees but even in some wojewodztwo committees which fail to set an example for party echelons under them.

Despite several warnings by party leaders against timidity before the masses, which was particularly evident during the food supply difficulties in 1951, tendencies toward isolation from the masses have not been eliminated.

The value of close ties with the general party membership was not fully realized during the first election of party authorities in 1952, and many powiat secretaries did not deem it necessary to work personally with party organizations but simply to direct from behind desks. Nor did the wojewodztwo committees strive sufficiently to change this situation and often set a bad example by taking little interest in the elections of party officials. This resulted in inadequate knowledge of organizations, of individual party members, and of the work and difficulties facing specific organizations.

In March 1952, when the powiat congresses of producers' cooperatives and peasant shock workers were being held, some secretaries of powiat committees limited themselves to directing some workers of the party apparatus to take part in these congresses. They saw no reason for personally becoming acquainted with the attitudes of the rural areas, with their relations to party and government policy, and with their desires and needs. Especially after the difficult fall of 1951, they saw no need to investigate to what degree the individual peasant or member of the producers' cooperatives understands his duties to the people's state.

Party leaders have often emphasized the great importance of large factories with which constant contact should be maintained and upon which the attention of party echelons should be concentrated. Unfortunately, this often has not been done. Despite some improvement, no definite change has been made here by the wojewodztwo and powiat committees. This lack of direct contact by some powiat committees with the masses became evident during the organization of mass protests against the "general agreement" /European Defense Community Treaty/. Many secretaries of powiat, municipal, precinct, and even wojewodztwo committees considered it entirely unnecessary to go to the factory personally to speak to the workers, listen to them, answer their questions, and dispel their doubts.

The Katowice Wojewodztwo Committee had the right approach because its secretaries and directors themselves contacted the masses in the mines, metallurgical plants, and other production plants. On the other hand, there is no reason for the Warsaw Committee's failure to explain to factory workers by personal contact the complicated affairs of the international situation.

Work with nonparty people continues to be unsatisfactory, especially in relation to the problem of new workers. Every year, industry is absorbing hundreds of thousands of rural men, women, and youths without a trade and unfamiliar with working conditions in large factories. Only after working together with other factory workers do they acquire skill, discipline, and social consciousness. This is being carried out by combating ancient customs, destroying prejudices of people from the rural areas, and eliminating the unwillingness of some skilled workers, especially some foremen, to share their experience with the newly arrived workers. In Stalowa Wola, for example, the older workers resent the new workers from the rural areas and call them "the yokels from beyond the San River."

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The party organizations must realize what a tremendous field of activity the newly arrived workers present in hundreds of metallurgical plants, factories, and mines.

The Stalowa Wola party organization has yet not been able to eliminate these harmful manifestations. Party organizations should vigorously combat WRN (Wolnosc, Rownosc i Niepodleglosc, Freedom, Equality, and Independence) attempts at sowing discord between skilled and unskilled workers, between old and newly arrived workers from rural areas, and between older workers and youth.

Party organizations must include political work with new workers in their plan, surround them with attention, and foster their allegiance to their plant and their new trade. A great deal of attention must be paid to the daily well-being of the newly arrived workers, their transportation to work, and training in their trade. The party's educational and political work among the new workers should unite all plant personnel and tie the party organization closely with the nonparty masses.

The party organization in the plant should cultivate an atmosphere which eliminates all discrimination against the new workers from rural areas, young people, and women.

Our experience shows that wherever the party organization works for proper conditions for new workers with the cooperation of the factory administration and the trade unions the results are very favorable. The Rzeszow Wojewodztwo plants, for example, show how young people, including girls from rural areas, can make complicated parts with precision within a few months through the care and attention of the party, administration, and trade unions.

Both the organizational and industrial divisions of the Central Committee, however, have not sufficiently circulated and propagated the good results in this field.

With proper attention, party organizations will create suitable conditions for recruiting outstanding workers into the party from among these new cadres.

In rural areas, during nationwide drives, we descend upon peasants in droves to discuss with them their affairs and national and international problems. At other times, there is no systematic effort to educate peasants by daily contact with them. Not all party organizations are able to establish their authority in the village. Some even, because of their cliquishness, isolate themselves completely from nonparty masses. Powiat committees often are not aware of this and do not help these village organizations to overcome this aloofness.

There are hundreds of village organizations which have not accepted new members nor dismissed old members in several years, creating a closed group. This results in insufficient contact with the nonparty activity of the village. This is clearly evident in their relations with peasants who have distinguished themselves in their duties to the state, and have earned commendations from People's Poland.

Many powiat committees do not even know the names of leading peasants; much less do they work with them. Even where records are kept of these outstanding peasants, they are not consulted or systematically exploited. The foremost of this group should be taken into the party.

Comrade Bierut has discussed the large turnover of party members since 1949. Many party members and candidates were somehow "lost" to the party. Comrade Bierut pointed out this dangerous fluctuation in the party ranks and this tendency to "lose" party members. Even within a single factory, many people in a

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party organization, because of transfers from one division to another for various reasons and because of poor party work and contact with members, dropped out of party life, although often they were people who could have developed into responsible party members with proper care.

There are several reasons for this "loss" of party members. The first is the inadequate party political work and the lack of concern for raising the political consciousness of party members in a great many of our organizations. Second, many of the "lost" members were persons who entered the party only accidentally. Third, serious deficiencies in party records of members and candidates and the tolerant attitude of powiat and even wojewodztwo committees toward carelessness and indifference have played an important part in this field.

The Central Committee has adopted a resolution which places the responsibility for putting party records and administration in order upon the powiat and municipal committees.

Initial experiences in the field in this work already indicate that many party echelons in wojewodztwo and powiat committees consider it as just one more chore and additional work which takes up time and interferes with taking part in "big politics." Such committees fail to realize that records constitute a basic element in the direction of the party organization. If party echelons will not fully appreciate the importance of keeping records, and if the committees pass it on to a bookkeeper without a systematic check on the part of responsible political workers, the further planned development of our organizations can be seriously affected and make the fight for strengthening the party more difficult.

In Grojec Powiat, Warsaw Wojewodztwo, 264 party members were "lost" to the party organization over a period of 3 months. It is not known whether they left or were transferred elsewhere. No one in the Grojec Powiat Committee investigates, analyzes, interests himself, or looks for reasons for this occurrence. Nobody in the powiat committee is the least bit disturbed over it.

Even the organization division of the Central Committee has seriously neglected this important matter.

The implementation of the Central Committee's resolution on record keeping will require that many powiat and even wojewodztwo committees realize the significance of this matter, that the powiat committees assume more responsibility in the confirmation at executive meetings of reports on the status of the organization and changes in party composition, and that record-keeping personnel be given proper screening and training.

Party administration and party records must be set in order if the Central Committee is to have confidence in figures and other data submitted by powiat committees to the wojewodztwo committees and by the wojewodztwo committees to the Central Committee.

Powiat and wojewodztwo committee secretaries treat the signing of statistical reports as a pure formality. This is contrary to the Central Committee's December Resolution, which requires an analysis of all organizational changes at every meeting of the wojewodztwo and powiat committee.

This applies also to political information. Party members often transmit distorted information to the Central Committee, exaggerate the significance of some facts, and uncritically repeat data received from powiat committees, forgetting that this information often serves as the basis for decisions. They fail to study the information and dismiss it with a formal statement: "according to powiat committee information."

Party information, especially that transmitted to the Central Committee, should be treated with great care. It should be critically evaluated and screened to avoid distortion.

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